



**PROSPERITY**

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## **Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness**

## Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness: Enhancing and Streamlining Regulatory Processes in North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Develop a trilateral Regulatory Cooperation Framework by 2007.	The framework will support and enhance existing cooperation as well as encourage new cooperation among regulators, including at the outset of the regulatory process, and encourage the compatibility of regulations and the reduction of redundant testing and certification requirements, while maintaining high standards of health and safety.	<p>Form a trilateral “core” group to work on drafting the framework: by fall 2005.</p> <p>Hold a trilateral seminar on regulatory cooperation to review the regulatory systems of Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. This should work toward determining ways and means of enhancing cooperation: by March 2006.</p> <p>Finalize a framework for trilateral regulatory cooperation: by 2007.</p> <p>Monitor cooperation efforts, with a view to producing a progress report/assessment: by 2008.</p>

## Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness: Steel: A Strategic Partnership – A Strategic Industry

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Pursue a North American Steel Strategy.	The three governments have agreed to pursue a North American Steel Strategy to promote growth, competitiveness and prosperity. The strategy will benefit North American manufacturers in the steel sector by reducing distortions, facilitating trade and enhancing steel market stability. The competitiveness and productivity of the steel industry will be improved through innovation and market development.	<p>North American governments will coordinate their comments on the OECD “Blueprint” for a steel subsidies agreement: June 2005.</p> <p>Create a small, trilateral government-industry working group to draft a detailed work program for implementation of the key priorities of the steel sector strategy: Report to be tabled for discussion at the November 2005 North American Steel Trade Committee meeting.</p> <p>Governments to confer with their steel industries and one another on the WTO Ministers meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005.</p> <p>Governments to meet to discuss their monitoring systems to share best practices, successes and potential ways to improve import monitoring: by March 2006.</p>

## Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness: Moving Toward a Fully Integrated Auto Sector

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Create the trilateral Automotive Partnership Council of North America.	The automotive sector-led Automotive Partnership Council of North America (APCNA) is a mechanism for the North American governments to work with interested stakeholders to ensure the competitiveness of the automotive sector and address the full spectrum of issues ranging from regulation to innovation, transportation infrastructure and border facilitation.	Formally establish the APCNA: by September 2005.  The APCNA to make recommendations to governments on key challenges and opportunities.
Promote greater compatibility in autos and auto parts regulations, standards and conformity assessment, while ensuring safety and environmental protection.	Compatibility in this sector will ensure that existing and future mandatory regulations and testing procedures enhance trade and competitiveness, while ensuring safety and environmental protection.	The NAFTA Automotive Standards Council and the NAFTA Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee both will meet to consider standards, regulations and conformity assessment procedures identified by stakeholders.
Coordinate Canada, U.S. and Mexico safety and environmental regulation development with UN/ECE/Global Technical Regulations.	North American coordination in safety and environmental regulation development will be significantly improved with the participation of all three countries in the Working Party 29 (WP29).	The process that Mexico began in order to participate in the WP29 group has finished. Therefore, Mexico has decided to participate in the group.

## Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness: A Fake-Free North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Combat counterfeiting and piracy.	<p>North Americans share a common goal of combatting the counterfeiting and piracy of goods, which weakens the incentive to create, harms economic development and can have public health and safety implications.</p> <p>Organized crime syndicates increasingly use global trading lanes to distribute and sell counterfeit and pirated goods worldwide, costing legitimate intellectual property rights holders in North America billions of dollars each year.</p>	<p>Seek to develop a coordinated strategy aimed at combatting counterfeiting and piracy, and focusing on enhancing detection and deterrence of counterfeiting and piracy, expanding public awareness and outreach efforts regarding trade in pirated and counterfeit goods, and developing measurements to assess progress over time and to estimate the magnitude of the problem: by 2006.</p>

## Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness: Other Initiatives

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Conclude arrangement recognizing corresponding Canada and U.S. specifications for containers used to transport dangerous goods.	This will contribute to ensuring that goods can flow seamlessly across borders.	Relevant authorities will meet to begin discussions.
Undertake an accelerated program to promote mutual recognition of results from testing laboratories with respect to measurement standards in North America.	Products tested with equipment whose measurement results are traceable to the physical standards of one North American country will be acceptable in all three countries. This will reduce redundancy in testing and high costs for manufacturers.	<p>Mutually recognize results from testing laboratories that make dimensional and automotive emission measurements: by March 2006.</p> <p>Mutually recognize results from testing laboratories with respect to flow measurements for sulphur emissions of fuel oil and general chemical measurements: by March 2007.</p> <p>Develop a work plan for long-term cooperation in metrology: by March 2007.</p>
Facilitate trade in medical devices.	<p>A reduction in the number of regulatory quality management system audits manufacturers must undergo would lead to a reduction in regulatory burden and costs.</p> <p>Regulatory cooperation may also lead to the convergence of standards, thereby reducing unnecessary differences in technical requirements and promoting earlier product approvals.</p>	<p>Eligible Canadian and Mexican small and medium-sized medical device companies have been given access to the U.S. FDA's medical devices small business discount.</p> <p>Canada and the U.S. to pursue opportunities for cooperation with regard to third-party quality systems audit/inspection programs: by March 2008.</p> <p>Work toward greater North American convergence of regulatory practices through the use of Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF) guidances: by March 2008.</p>



## Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness: Other Initiatives

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Pursue greater market access of natural health products in North America.	Manufacturers of natural health products will benefit from market access opportunities for their products.	Canada, U.S. and Mexico authorities will participate in a roundtable discussion to exchange information regarding domestic conformity assessment procedures: by September 2005.
Pursue development of a mutually acceptable approach for Canada and the U.S. to share a single notification assessment for the introduction of new chemical substances, under the Canada-U.S. Four Corners Agreement and/or OECD Pilot project on Mutual Acceptance of Notification.	Sharing the single notification and assessment information related to new chemicals will reduce the time and expense of the assessments.	Initiate steps to begin cooperative preparation and exchange of assessment documentation between the parties.  Develop a trilateral inventory of chemicals in commerce.  Assess the results of the two-year OECD pilot project Mutual Acceptance of Notification.
Engage in a common approach for textile labelling.	Harmonization of labelling requirements will reduce costs for manufacturers and facilitate trade in textile and apparel trade between the Parties.	Finalize and sign an arrangement on “care labelling symbols” for textiles and apparel.  Develop a common approach to identify the dealer identity for textiles articles.

## Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness: Other Initiatives

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Enhance regulatory cooperation in marine safety equipment and pleasure craft.	This will promote market access and reduce costs.	<p>Determine the need and desirability for negotiating an equivalency agreement, and identify the product categories and standards/regulations for coverage for marine equipment.</p> <p>Determine the need for negotiating a mutual recognition agreement to recognize certificates of conformity for the construction of pleasure craft.</p>
Strengthen and enhance the exchange of information and public health and safety cooperative activities related to the safety of consumer products.	The Memoranda of Understanding will establish mechanisms where sharing and exchange of information related to risk management, enforcement/compliance, laboratory testing, recall, regulatory development, and post-marketing surveillance will improve consumer product safety in North America.	<p>Finalize and sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Canada: June 2005.</p> <p>Finalize and sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Mexico.</p> <p>Initiate negotiations on a potential Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and Mexico.</p>
Work to more effectively identify and respond to factors affecting the competitiveness of the North American economy.	The fast-changing dynamics of globalization offer significant opportunities but also pose common challenges for North American firms. North American governments are also affected and must be flexible and rapid in their responses. Building on the work of existing organizations that provide strategic advice on ways to strengthen the North American economy will help the governments identify these issues.	Develop a proposal for consideration by Ministers that would build upon the work of existing organizations: by March 2006.

## Manufactured Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness: Other Initiatives

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Explore opportunities for collaboration in other key areas, including biotechnology, nanotechnology, supply chains and logistics management, forest products, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), building materials, fibre content labelling, Green Suppliers Network, and on an approach to emerging markets.	The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America commits the North American governments to an ongoing process of cooperation, with new items being added to the work agenda by mutual agreement as circumstances warrant. To continue the efforts to enhance the competitiveness and improve the quality of life of the people of North America on an ongoing basis, the North American governments have agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration in other areas that could be added to the work agenda beyond the June announcement. For example, the governments will consult with SME stakeholders on ways of addressing their particular challenges within a North American context.	Develop and report on potential initiatives.



## **Movement of Goods**

## **Movement of Goods: Expanding duty-free treatment through rules of origin liberalization, covering at least \$30 billion in trilateral trade by 2007**

<b>INITIATIVE</b>	<b>HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE</b>
Reduce “rules of origin” costs on goods traded between our countries.	Liberalizing the rules of origin will reduce administrative burdens as well as provide producers with more flexibility in sourcing components for use in the production of their goods. This will make it easier for exporters to qualify for NAFTA duty-free rates and should lead to enhanced trilateral trade.	<p>June: Announce completed trilateral implementation of Track I round of rules of origin changes.</p> <p>By September 30, 2005, complete public consultations on Track II round of rules of origin changes.</p> <p>Aim to implement Track II round of rules of origin changes by January 1, 2006, but no later than mid-2006.</p> <p>By May 1, 2006, complete negotiations on Track III round of rules of origin changes, aiming for as comprehensive and ambitious a package as possible.</p>
Explore opportunities for trade facilitation.	Initiatives aimed at facilitating trade in goods will enhance trade opportunities between the three countries.	<p>Consultations with interested stakeholders will commence immediately, aimed at identifying priorities for trade facilitation.</p> <p>In the latter part of 2005, the three countries will meet to discuss specific proposals, reflecting input received during the consultations.</p>



## E-Commerce and ICT

## E-Commerce and ICT: Maximize on-line Business and Consumer Confidence

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Framework of Common Principles for Electronic Commerce	Framework principles will support the conduct of transborder e-commerce that will promote the growth of on-line business in North America by strengthening consumer confidence through privacy protection, the mutual recognition of electronic signatures and documents, and through the streamlining of cross-border electronic commerce practices and procedures. The Framework addresses the respective roles of government and the private sector, facilitating transparency and security, as well as the development of the e-commerce marketplace. It will also accelerate ICT use by eliminating barriers to e-commerce in cross-border transactions.	Framework signed June 2005  Implementation of work elements by March 2007
Give legal effect to the use of electronic signatures and e-contractual transactions.	This development will foster the growth of cross-border electronic transactions, recognizing electronic signatures and documents as legal instruments.	Approaches and issues identified by December 2005  Draft procedures by June 2006  Implementation by March 2007

## E-Commerce and ICT: Maximize on-line Business and Consumer Confidence

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Implementation of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) Mutual Recognition Agreement on Conformity Assessment	This will streamline the process for equipment suppliers and reduce the costs associated with duplicate testing or conformity assessments of certain telecommunications equipment before it can be sold in the North American marketplace.	<p>Implementation of <i>Phase I</i> (i.e. acceptance of test results from recognized laboratories):  U.S. and Canada – June 2005  Mexico – Begin implementation by June 2006</p> <p>Implementation of <i>Phase II</i> (i.e. acceptance of product certification from recognized certification bodies):  U.S. and Canada – post-2007</p> <p>Mexico -- based on the experience of <i>Phase I</i>, explore the possibility of implementing <i>Phase II</i> by March 2008</p>
Explore agreement on mechanisms to ensure bilateral/trilateral consultations on telecommunications and spectrum policy issues.	Provides each country with enhanced ability to develop common approaches and positions for international bodies (International Telecommunications Union, CITEL) and bilateral bodies (High Level Consultative Commission [Mexico-U.S.], Radio Technical Liaison Committee [Canada-U.S.]), further collaboration on spectrum policy and technical regulations, reinforcing the importance of ICT to respective economies.	Work plan to be developed by December 2005
Appropriate agencies/ departments will discuss procedures for expediting the negotiation and conclusion of new or amended agreements for coordination and sharing of frequency bands in border areas.	Canada, Mexico and the United States have large geographical areas in the border regions, each with considerable populations, including large urban centres. As new wireless technologies and services continue to emerge at an increasing rate, any agreements for sharing frequency bands will be timely, with extensive and positive impact.	Initial discussions by December 2005





## Financial Services

## Financial Services

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Evaluate current technical assistance programs for bank, securities and insurance regulators and supervisors.	Contributes to more effective development and implementation of regulatory initiatives by providing financial sector supervisors with the tools to protect consumers and maintain the integrity of the financial systems in the NAFTA jurisdictions.	Inventory existing technical assistance training programs to consider need for potential new training areas: by December 2005.
Encourage cooperation on financial literacy/financial education.	Promotes the use of the formal financial sector, improved financial products and services, and competition.	Increase contacts and consultations among U.S. and Mexican agencies on how to share experience on financial literacy/financial education: by December 2006.
Mexico and U.S. to promote efficiencies and encourage use of FedACH International Mexico automated clearing-house mechanism.	Contributes to a more consolidated continental financial infrastructure and the reduction of costs for cross-border transactions.	Hold joint U.S.-Mexico promotional sessions for FedACH International mechanism at Mexican consulates in the U.S. under the "Directo a Mexico" program: by June 2006.  NAFTA Financial Services Committee to report on feasibility of transforming the U.S.-Mexico one-way automated clearing-house mechanism into a bidirectional mechanism: by June 2007.
Canada and U.S. to consider elimination of withholding taxes and branch-level interest tax imposed on cross-border interest payments.	Ensures that the tax treaty reflects both the evolution of domestic tax policies and the needs of cross-border business and trade.	Canada and U.S. treaty negotiators to discuss in context of current negotiations.

## Financial Services

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Strengthen financial sector information sharing.	Contributes to improving tax administration and reduced costs in the provision of banking services.	NAFTA Financial Services Committee to consult with tax authorities and report on recommendations for improvement in financial information-sharing arrangements: by December 2005.
Encourage discussion of issues surrounding enhanced cross-border transactions through a direct access to the existing electronic trading platforms of stock exchanges and derivative exchanges across the region without compromising investor protection.	Supports the strengthening of capital markets and the more efficient provision of securities services through reduced transaction costs and a lower cost of capital for firms.	Begin dialogue with regulators regarding direct access to existing stock exchanges: by June 2007.
Seek ways to improve the availability and affordability of insurance coverage for carriers engaged in cross-border commerce in North America.	Contributes to improving access to capital and wider competition in the insurance marketplace.	<p>U.S. and Canada to work toward possible amendment of the U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Regulation to allow Canadian insurers to directly sign the MCS-90 form concerning endorsement for motor carrier policies of insurance for public liability: by June 2006.</p> <p>Facilitate and increase tourism flows by various means, including the possibility of exploring the establishment of cross-border personal auto insurance: by June 2007.</p>

## Financial Services

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Encourage identification of issues of common regulatory concern and other financial and regulatory issues of interest to particular parties and work together to facilitate cooperation.	Serves to strengthen the financial systems in the three countries while maintaining high standards of safety and soundness, and of investor protection. It also serves to strengthen financial services' role as a support to increase efficiency and productivity generally, which will allow firms in all sectors across North America to strengthen their competitive positions, thus bringing more and better opportunities for the development of the three countries.	Financial Services Working Group to encourage regulators to identify issues of common regulatory concern: Report on outcomes of these consultations by December 2007.



## Transportation

## Signature Initiative: North American Air Transportation: Expanding Our Horizons

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Explore opportunities for expanding air transportation relations on a bilateral and trilateral basis.	Encourages the development of new markets, new services, lower prices and greater competition to the benefit of North Americans while ensuring a strong and vibrant air transportation industry in North America that is well positioned to pursue greater opportunities in international markets.	Engage in negotiations in 2005-06 on a bilateral basis.  Initiate dialogue to identify issues by the end of 2006 in moving toward a trilateral agreement.
Increase North American airspace capacity and allow aircraft to safely fly more-efficient routes.	Implementing Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) promotes efficient and safe use of airspace and reduces costs to air carriers and citizens.	RVSM was implemented concurrently by all three states in January 2005 as originally scheduled and agreed to. The initiative is complete and has yielded the increased capacity anticipated.
Reach an agreement that allows business aviation, including fractionally owned aircraft, to fly freely between any and all three countries.	Allows North American entities to make greater use of their own aircraft to advance their business objectives. Increases efficiency of business aviation by reducing costs and bureaucracy.	Consult stakeholders and establish a compatible North American fractional ownership regulatory regime in 2005.  Address economic barriers to an “open” trilateral regime by identifying constraints at the national level and determining how they can be addressed, and reaching agreement on an equitable regime applying to all three countries.  Agreement to be completed and implemented in 2006.

## Signature Initiative: North American Air Transportation: Expanding Our Horizons

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Enhance aviation safety and air navigation.	<p>Safer North American skies through harmonized standards for the implementation of RNAV (area navigation)-RNP (Requirement Navigation Performance) across North America. This simplifies training and improves efficiency for air carriers.</p> <p>Implementing an operational Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS), based on the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), throughout North America increases navigational accuracy across North America.</p> <p>Implementing an automated flight data exchange between cross-border air traffic control facilities leads to increased safety and capacity.</p>	<p>Establish a joint strategy for RNAV-RNP harmonization and sign a formal statement in 2005.</p> <p>Install five WAAS stations in Canada and Mexico in 2005.</p> <p>Install four more WAAS stations in 2006.</p> <p>Continue consultations to develop joint positions in 2005.</p>
Work toward a Mexico-U.S. Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA).	<p>Negotiations of a Memorandum of Cooperation to work toward this objective would be the first concrete step toward an eventual BASA between the U.S. and Mexico. Signing a BASA would facilitate the transfer and sale of aeronautical products within North America.</p>	<p>By the end of 2006, sign a Memorandum of Cooperation.</p>

## Signature Initiative: Safer, Faster and More Efficient Border Crossings

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Use new or enhanced mechanisms to support border planning, information sharing and communications.	<p>The use of bilateral mechanisms such as the U.S.-Canada Transportation Border Working Group and the U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning will allow for better planning for future priority investments in border infrastructure.</p> <p>The United States and Canada will complete a border infrastructure compendium and develop an implementation plan for priority infrastructure investments at key land border ports of entry, improve border trade and traffic information, improve the efficiency of border agencies and the cross-border movement of people and goods, enhance the use of supporting technologies, and improve border transportation planning and coordination.</p> <p>Methods for detecting bottlenecks on the U.S.-Mexico border will be developed and low-cost/high-impact projects identified in bottleneck studies will be constructed or implemented.</p> <p>Together, these measures will create safer, faster and more efficient border crossings, improve trade flow and enhance the prosperity of North Americans.</p>	<p>Revitalize the Canada-U.S. Transportation Border Working Group and the U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning by the end of 2005.</p> <p>Complete a Canada-U.S. border infrastructure compendium and develop an implementation plan for priority infrastructure investments at key land border ports of entry by 2008.</p> <p>Conduct ongoing consultation, as appropriate, with stakeholders, including Mexican Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) and U.S. Trade Development Administration (USTDA).</p> <p>Initiate new studies on the main NAFTA corridors between Mexico and the U.S. and develop a methodology to relieve bottlenecks within the highway network and at ports of entry by mid-2006 (9 months).</p> <p>Convene a U.S.-Mexico transportation financing seminar in the summer of 2005 and conduct follow-up workshops on innovative approaches to financing projects along the border in 2005-06 (12 months).</p>



## Signature Initiative: Safer, Faster and More Efficient Border Crossings

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Track and analyze border trade and traffic flows using modern technologies.	<p>Tracking transportation statistics and infrastructure needs and addressing information gaps will enhance trilateral trade flow awareness, support needs analysis and allow for more effective long-term planning. This will support the optimized use of North American border infrastructure and aid in continental transportation architecture development.</p> <p>Addressing border information flow architecture would improve the efficiency of border agencies by enhancing interoperability of technologies and would reduce costs.</p>	<p>Maintain and update trilateral data held in the North American Transportation Statistics Interchange. Complete update in September 2005.</p> <p>Implement weigh-in-motion (WIM) technology projects in Canada and at Canada-U.S. border crossings to improve border trade and traffic flow data collection and analysis in 2005-06.</p> <p>Beginning in 2005, conduct analysis and modelling of U.S.-Mexico border infrastructure and trade flows to support the development of enhanced border architecture. Model 21 ports of entry with Mexican Border Wizard.</p> <p>Develop a U.S.-Mexico Geographical Information System (GIS) in 2006 (18 months).</p> <p>Complete final version of Border Information Flow Architecture and pursue opportunities for a pilot project.</p> <p>Support the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture design for Mexico.</p>
Facilitate border trade and traffic flows.	Expanding border infrastructure and cross-border commuter services enhances trade flows by reducing border delays.	<p>Expand the construction of six new express lanes for SENTRI or NEXUS on the Mexican-U.S. border by the end of 2006.</p> <p>Implement a secure cross-border commuter service on the U.S.-Mexican border between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez by December 2005.</p>

## Other Transportation Initiatives

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Enhance shortsea shipping.	The greater use of shortsea shipping in North American transportation and trade has the potential to improve the utilization of waterway capacity, reduce congestion and transportation costs, enhance modal integration, and facilitate the cross-border movement of goods and people. Shortsea shipping has the potential to increase the efficiency of a more fully integrated North American transportation system in order to meet current and future transportation demands.	<p>Hold a continental Shortsea Shipping conference by spring 2006.</p> <p>Implement the Memorandum of Cooperation by 2007.</p> <p>Establish a Canada-U.S. joint study/research project in 2005 for completion by 2007.</p>
Coordinate North American rail safety.	Increases the efficiency of cross-border rail traffic flows by harmonizing safety procedures and exchanging information.	<p>Continue to conduct bi-annual senior management meetings to consider ways of promoting rail safety and facilitating cross-border flows of rail traffic.</p> <p>In 2005, evaluate procedures at critical crossing points.</p> <p>Continue and expand joint safety inspections at border locations in 2005</p> <p>Examine rail safety regulations to identify opportunities for further harmonization by the end of 2006.</p>

## Other Transportation Initiatives

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Recognize and harmonize North American motor carrier regulations and standards.	<p>Improves commercial road transportation efficiency by coordinating, where feasible, vehicle weight and dimension (VWD) standards and administration.</p> <p>Recognition and harmonization of motor carrier medical standards and safety ratings will improve flexibility for motor carriers, thus reducing transportation costs and promoting increased trade flows.</p>	<p>Hold scoping meetings in 2005 and early 2006 to identify specific, potentially resolvable VWD issues.</p> <p>By 2010, recommend coordination methods and implement appropriate standards and administration adjustments.</p> <p>In 2005, meet to develop critical path to address motor carrier medical standards harmonization.</p> <p>In 2005, establish a pre-notification protocol to advise SPP partners of impending safety regulations that could have a significant impact on motor carriers.</p> <p>By the end of 2007, establish procedures for the electronic exchange of motor carrier safety data.</p> <p>By the end of 2007, develop a system of reciprocal recognition of motor carrier safety ratings.</p>
Examine the benefits of an intermodal transportation concept for North America.	A North American intermodal transportation network has the potential to enhance transportation efficiency, reduce cross-loading delays and increase flexibility for trans-border trade flows.	<p>Develop an intermodal transportation concept by the end of 2006.</p> <p>Work toward establishing an intermodal corridor work plan and a Memorandum of Cooperation and pilot project.</p>



## Energy

## Energy: Creating a sustainable energy economy for North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Expand science and technology collaboration.	Our countries will work together to promote cleaner and more efficient energy sources and technologies.	<p>By June 2006, hold meeting of the three governments to explore possibilities of enhanced cooperative research and development in areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Methane hydrates</li> <li>○ Unconventional natural gas resources</li> <li>○ Enhanced oil recovery</li> <li>○ Carbon sequestration regional partnerships</li> <li>○ North American Clean Coal Initiative</li> <li>○ Oil and natural gas technology joint research and development</li> <li>○ Hydrogen</li> <li>○ <i>La Casa Nueva</i>, an energy-efficient eco-housing project</li> <li>○ Oil sands fuel chemistry and emissions workshop</li> </ul> <p>Determine if there are opportunities for public-private partnerships.</p> <p>By June 2006, agree on areas for enhanced research and development cooperation.</p> <p>Continue development of new legal instruments to enable further science and technology cooperation involving financial transfers and intellectual property.</p>
Increase energy efficiency collaboration.	This effort will result in enhanced cooperation in promoting energy efficiency, including harmonizing endorsement labelling and energy performance standards, and strengthening North American energy efficiency standards.	By January 2006, establish a collaborative work program aimed at exchanging information and best practices and undertaking activities focused on promoting energy efficiency in North America, as well as improving vehicle fuel efficiency.

## Energy: Creating a sustainable energy economy for North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Increase regulatory cooperation.	The three countries recognize that appropriate coordination of their efforts will promote the public interest through increased efficiency, expedited and coordinated action on significant energy infrastructure projects, and cost savings to both the public and regulated entities. All agree that the regulatory efforts of the National Energy Board (NEB), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Comisión Reguladora de Energía (CRE) will benefit from increased communication and cooperation concerning the timing and other procedural aspects of related matters that may be pending before all three agencies.	June: Announce the formation of a trilateral regulators' group that will meet three times a year (every four months) to discuss issues affecting cross-border energy projects.
Enhance electricity collaboration.	Reliability of electricity supply through the interconnected grid system is a priority issue for our countries.	June: Announce the formation of a working group on electricity reliability that will coordinate U.S. and Canadian guidance to the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) and regional councils, concerning an Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) that will operate on an international basis. Mexico will participate in the working group as an observer.  A public workshop was held in June 2005 on the draft of "Principles for a Reliability Organization that Can Function on an International Basis," involving participants from governments, regulatory authorities and stakeholders.
	All three countries need to coordinate efforts on restructuring issues that may impact transmission provision and access, as well as market design and investment issues that impact North American markets.	By the end of 2005, hold a trilateral electricity cross-border infrastructure workshop involving participants from electricity industries and other stakeholders.

## Energy: Creating a sustainable energy economy for North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
	Increased use of renewable energy (including for electricity generation) can help all three countries improve energy security and the environment.	By January 2006, convene discussion on possible renewable energy cooperation.
	Development of a public Web site will make information on electricity regulatory issues more transparent and available to all interested stakeholders, will promote electricity trade in North America and will provide the means for better communication between stakeholders and government agencies.	By spring 2006, launch a public Web site to provide timely information on electricity regulatory actions taken in each country that affect cross-border electricity trade.
Greater economic production from oil sands.	The North American region will collaborate on identifying market, infrastructure and refinery capacity issues, and developing technologies to reduce costs and environmental impacts of oil sands production to promote optimal sustainable development of oil sands resources.	<p>Mexico will participate as an observer.</p> <p>By January 2006, building on joint discussions with key stakeholders and scientific experts, issue a report that discusses the mid- to long-term aspects of the oil sands product market development and the infrastructure and refinery implications for increased oil sands market penetration.</p> <p>By June 2006, working from the results of the June 2005 Oil Sands Chemistry and Engine Emissions Roadmap Workshop, issue a paper that discusses future fuel options for North America, the market implications for oil sands production, the impacts for refiners and infrastructure.</p> <p>By June 2007, produce a paper examining the long-term prospects for enhanced oil recovery in Canada and the U.S. using CO<sub>2</sub> from oil sands operations.</p>

## Energy: Creating a sustainable energy economy for North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Increase natural gas collaboration.	This initiative will address a range of issues related to the natural gas market in North America, including production, transportation, transmission, distribution, consumption, trade, interconnections and liquefied natural gas as well as projections for the future. This initiative also focuses on transparency of regulations, laws and siting processes in the three countries to promote enhanced regional trade and investment. The initiative will result in a better understanding and knowledge of the North American energy market that can contribute to energy security and therefore assist the region's economic development.	<p>By August 2005, release print version of North American Natural Gas Vision report (Web version released February 2005).</p> <p>By June 2006, hold a workshop to obtain stakeholder perspectives, discuss gas market issues, and review current regulations and siting processes in each country for major pipeline projects and liquefied natural gas import terminals.</p> <p>By June 2007, launch a Web site that will allow for the posting of regulatory changes and other industry information, as well as allow for interactive comments by stakeholders on issues and needs.</p>
Enhance nuclear collaboration.	The three countries will benefit from the sharing of information and best practices on many issues associated with the application of nuclear technology and the safe production and use of nuclear power.	<p>By December 2005, establish and hold first meeting of a nuclear experts group under existing officials-level North American Energy Working Group (NAEWG).</p> <p>By June 2006, establish cooperative work plan.</p> <p>By June 2007, explore and agree on second round of initiatives.</p>
Enhance cooperation on hydrocarbons.	This effort will facilitate the exchange of views, experiences, information and best practices in the hydrocarbons sector to strengthen North American collaboration in the hydrocarbons sector.	By June 2006, hold workshops on these issues.



## Energy: Creating a sustainable energy economy for North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Improve transparency and coordination in energy information, statistics and projections.</p>	<p>Enhancing trilateral energy trade information supports decision-making by North American governments and industries.</p>	<p>By January 2006, release a revised, updated and translated version of “North America – The Energy Picture,” originally developed trilaterally in 2002.</p> <p>By June 2007, undertake joint modelling effort.</p>



## Environment

## Environment

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<b>Clean Air</b>		
Reduce sulphur in fuels.	Reduced sulphur emissions will lead to improved air quality and better health for North Americans.	By March 2006, increase the domestic supply of low sulphur fuels in Mexico, through significant investment by Mexico, supported by technical assistance and capacity building from the United States and Canada.
Address ship-source air pollution.	Better data is the first step in strengthening our efforts to reduce ship-source air pollution.	By March 2006, begin to address ship-source air pollution through coordinated data gathering, marine emissions inventory development and air quality modelling.
Report on air quality in North America.	Reporting on air quality will promote public awareness of environmental issues.	By March 2006, develop methods for reporting on air quality in North America.
<b>Clean Water</b>		
Joint Canada-U.S. review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.	The review is an opportunity to ensure that the Agreement continues to be a visionary statement guiding not only governments, but also members of the Great Lakes community, in the continued protection and restoration of the Great Lakes.	By March 2006, launch joint review of the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
Work trilaterally to improve water quality across North America.	Enhanced information sharing on the provision of safe drinking water will promote the dissemination of best practices and provide better information for decision-making.	By March 2006, enhance information sharing on policies and actions to ensure safe drinking water, including establishment of a Web portal.

## Environment

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<b>Invasive Alien Species</b>		
Work trilaterally to identify invasive alien species of common concern and develop a strategy to reduce their environmental and economic impacts across all our nations.	Joint strategies for invasive alien species will reduce the likelihood of their introduction and spread in North America.	By March 2006, technical experts meet to prioritize invasive alien species issues in North America and identify the gaps in existing mechanisms that could be addressed trilaterally to better control the spread of invasive alien species.
Ballast water management.	Improved ballast water management will reduce the environmental and economic costs associated with aquatic invasive alien species, such as zebra mussels.	By March 2006, promote ballast water management strategies in North America, demonstrating our collective commitment to combat invasive alien species.
<b>Migratory Species and Biodiversity</b>		
Announce cooperative efforts to conserve safe habitats and migration routes for migratory species, building on existing work in this area.	<p>The conservation of key habitats will better protect North America's migratory species.</p> <p>Improved monitoring data and enhanced collaboration will result in more effective conservation strategies for marine mammals.</p> <p>Cooperation will improve forest management.</p>	<p>Sign the trinational Declaration of Intent for the Conservation of North American Birds and Their Habitat.</p> <p>By March 2006, undertake enhanced collaboration on monitoring and conservation of marine mammals (grey and humpback whales) and other migratory wildlife.</p> <p>By March 2006, enhance cooperation in sustainable forest management, including cooperative training for forest fire prevention.</p>

Environment		
INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<b>Oceans</b>		
Collaborate on management planning for shared marine resources.	Strengthened collaboration on ocean observation, management and habitat protection will help preserve the integrity of our shared marine environments.	<p>By March 2006, establish a draft implementation plan for an Ocean Observation System for the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean as North American contributions to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).</p> <p>By March 2006, develop options to advance ocean observation in the Arctic as input to 2007-08 International Polar Year.</p> <p>By March 2006, enhance collaboration on the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to ocean management.</p> <p>By March 2006, enhance information sharing and develop, as appropriate, strategies for complementary marine protected areas, especially habitat for migratory species and ecologically sensitive habitat.</p>
<b>Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment</b>		
The participating parties work toward the conclusion of a transboundary environmental impact assessment cooperation agreement for proposed projects.	Minimizing the impact of projects on the environment will help preserve environmental health.	<p>By October 2005, terms of reference developed to scope out trilateral work plan.</p> <p>By June 2007, the appropriate agencies of each country will seek to conclude a transboundary environmental impact assessment cooperation agreement for proposed projects.</p>



## Food and Agriculture

## Food and Agriculture: Enhance Food Safety and Facilitate Trade

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Establish or identify a North American food safety coordinating mechanism.</p> <p>This initiative includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cooperating in the design and development of common standards;</li> <li>- reviewing existing food safety standards to identify and assess, on a scientific basis, differences with a view to removing, where warranted and appropriate, those identified differences;</li> <li>- sharing of information on food safety matters;</li> <li>- collaborating effectively in the development of national positions for international food safety standard-setting bodies.</li> </ul>	<p>This will enhance protection of the public from food safety hazards while facilitating trade and promoting economic efficiency.</p>	<p>By March 2006, a trilateral task force will recommend options for implementation of a coordinating mechanism.</p> <p>By March 2006, develop a prioritized list of standards for review.</p> <p>By September 2006, review and compare the identified food standards to determine similarities, differences and scientific basis for the differences.</p> <p>By March 2007, establish or identify an effective food safety coordinating mechanism facilitating the cooperative development of common North American standards, as appropriate, and the removal of identified differences in standards where warranted and appropriate.</p> <p>By March 2006, explore ways to better coordinate between the NAFTA partners on Codex standards and international standard setting.</p>

## Food and Agriculture: Enhance Food Safety and Facilitate Trade

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Speed up the identification, management and recovery from food safety, animal and plant disease hazards on a North American basis.</p> <p>This initiative includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- import/border inspection policies;</li> <li>- plant health pest management initiatives coordinated by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO);</li> </ul>	<p>This will enhance protection of the public from food safety hazards and protect North America's animal and plant resources from disease and pests. Recovery from outbreaks or incidents that do occur will be facilitated, including reduction of trade and economic impact.</p>	<p>By December 2005, explore ways to implement electronic transmission of certificates for meat, poultry, animal health and plant health on a trilateral basis and other products as identified.</p> <p>By September 2006, conduct a pilot project within one program area and by December 2006, report on the practicality of issuing electronic certificates.</p> <p>By March 2006, develop standardized procedures concerning notification and follow-up actions taken due to non-compliance.</p> <p>By March 2007, develop common approaches for border inspections of live animals.</p> <p>By March 2007, explore ways to establish common certification criteria, where certificates are required.</p> <p>By June 2006, develop standardized North American procedures and criteria to recognize pest-free areas.</p> <p>By March 2006, develop a common approach to standardize the regulatory measures taken in response to <i>Phakopsora pachyrhizi</i> (soybean rust) pest detection based on the risk it presents to each country's plant health status.</p> <p>By June 2006, complete a regulatory standard for North American imports of propagative material.</p> <p>By June 2006, complete a joint protocol for the commercial movement of biocontrol agents.</p>



## Food and Agriculture: Enhance Food Safety and Facilitate Trade

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>- animal health initiatives;</p>		<p>By December 2006, investigate the feasibility of joint preclearance programs for plant commodities shipped into North America.</p> <p>By March 2007, jointly conduct offshore audits/evaluations of certification programs for certain plant commodities.</p> <p>By June 2005, harmonize North American import approach for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) management.</p> <p>By March 2006, review, explore and report on approaches concerning feed, surveillance and risk management to optimize transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) management in a North American context.</p> <p>By June 2006, develop harmonized risk mitigation and management approaches applicable throughout North America, including compartmentality (regionalization/disease-free zones), that are appropriate to the animal health disease status.</p> <p>By June 2006, modify existing protocols with the goal of implementation in order to allow for the transit of products through the U.S. in which the process of transiting itself does not pose a risk to the U.S.</p> <p>By March 2007, complete the respective regulatory approaches in each country to implement the harmonized import approach for BSE.</p>

## Food and Agriculture: Enhance Food Safety and Facilitate Trade

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>- veterinary drugs and biologics;</p> <p>- labelling approaches.</p>		<p>By March 2007, review, explore and report on common technical standards for demonstrating the safety and efficacy of licensed/regulated animal health products (e.g. veterinary drugs and biologics) that may result in animal or zoonotic diseases (e.g. BSE, foot and mouth disease) or antimicrobial resistance.</p> <p>By March 2007, report on differences and approaches to approval of veterinary drugs and vaccines and feasibility for further harmonization.</p> <p>By March 2007, utilizing trilateral mechanisms, explore common approaches to labelling, as feasible and appropriate, in key areas such as nutrition, allergens, production and process methods, organics, country of origin, highlighted ingredients and misleading claims.</p>

## Food and Agriculture: Enhance Food Safety and Facilitate Trade

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Work to resolve differences in pesticide maximum residue limits that may be barriers to trade and undertake joint reviews of pesticide registrations.</p>	<p>Promotes greater consistency in pesticide regulation in North America. Enhances protection of the public while facilitating trade and economic efficiency.</p>	<p>By September 2005, complete collaborative data collection activities for pest control products to meet the needs of “minor crop” growers. (Note: minor crops include most fruits, nuts and vegetables. Then by December 2005, select pest control products for joint review by governments and stakeholders and by March 2006, complete joint reviews for simultaneous approval of selected pest control products.</p> <p>By December 2005, develop a long-term trade irritant/risk reduction strategy for pulse crops and resolution of specific priority trade issues identified by stakeholders.</p> <p>By December 2006, release final risk assessments based on a thorough re-evaluation of heavy-duty wood preservatives.</p> <p>By September 2006, complete reviews for four to six conventional chemicals.</p>

## Food and Agriculture: Enhance Laboratory Coordination

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Enhance capacity by leveraging expertise and technology by working cooperatively within the established North American Foreign Animal Disease laboratory network to identify methodologies and recognize equivalent diagnostic performance and identification methodologies for select animal diseases, such as BSE and avian influenza.	Enhances the ability of laboratories to support measures to prevent and respond to animal health diseases in North America including those that represent a threat to human health.	<p>By June 2005, identify programs to be able to identify methodologies and recognize equivalent diagnostic performance for select animal diseases, such as BSE and avian influenza.</p> <p>By March 2007, prioritize, assess and recognize the methodologies and proficiency for selected animal diseases.</p>
Enhance capacity by leveraging expertise and technology through the establishment of a plant health laboratory network to identify equivalent methodologies for the detection and identification, surveillance and risk assessment of plant diseases and pests.	Enhances the ability of laboratories to support measures to prevent and respond to plant diseases and pests that pose a risk to North American forests and crops and associated economic activities.	<p>By March 2006, establish a laboratory working group in the area of plant health similar to the existing North American Foreign Animal Disease laboratory network.</p> <p>By March 2009, recognize equivalent diagnostic methodologies for the detection and identification, surveillance and risk assessment of selected plant pests and diseases.</p>

## Food and Agriculture: Enhance Laboratory Coordination

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Identify the appropriate group/vehicle to facilitate the implementation of food safety laboratory initiatives.</p> <p>This initiative includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assess and recognize equivalence, as appropriate, of analytical methods using agreed method performance criteria;</li> <li>- enhance quality assurance for priority areas of food safety hazards;</li> <li>- build confidence through trilateral participation in training courses and exchanging of information and participation in proficiency testing.</li> </ul>	<p>Enhances the ability of laboratories to support measures to protect the public from food safety hazards.</p>	<p>By January 2006, establish a task force to identify existing trilateral forums for laboratory cooperation, ensuring that all appropriate regulatory authorities are included.</p> <p>By March 2006, identify or establish the appropriate group/vehicle.</p> <p>By January 2007, determine performance criteria to assess analytical methods.</p> <p>By December 2007, identify areas of common interest of which to assess equivalency.</p> <p>By March 2008, begin to assess analytical methods.</p> <p>By December 2008, identify equivalency of selected analytical methods.</p> <p>By March 2006, share laboratory quality assurance and quality control procedures and practices.</p> <p>By March 2007, exchange information of proficiency testing programs in which each country participates and identify and fill any gaps where programs are not available.</p> <p>By January 2006, participate in the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) course for both microbiological and chemical disciplines.</p> <p>By March 2006, all three countries participate in general laboratory procedures/courses offered by Canada and Mexico.</p>

## Food and Agriculture: Increase Cooperation in Agricultural Biotechnology Regulation

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Continue to support the cooperative effort within North American Biotechnology Initiative for the initiation, coordination and prioritization of various biotech activities.</p> <p>Including the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- work toward developing common approaches for regulatory policies related to products of biotechnology;</li> <li>- cooperate and share information on international biotechnology activities.</li> </ul>	<p>Promotes greater consistency in the regulation of products of biotechnology.</p> <p>Enhances food safety while facilitating trade and economic activity.</p>	<p>By March 2006, expand the current technical regulatory exchanges between Canada and the United States to include Mexican regulators and formalize regular trilateral regulatory exchanges.</p> <p>By March 2006, establish training workshops in Mexico for risk assessors.</p> <p>By March 2007, formalize NABI intercessional conference calls as needed to discuss biotechnology issues in international organizations such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>



## Health

## Health: Completion of Protocols for Mutual Assistance and Support in a Cross-Border Emergency

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Draft and sign Canada-U.S. and U.S.-Mexico protocols for mutual assistance and support in a cross-border public health emergency.*</p>	<p>The establishment of protocols in this area will permit a seamless and efficient flow of resources across our borders during a health emergency. The exchange of liaison officers and emergency contact lists will permit early rapid information sharing and help maintain mutual confidence during an emergency. The testing of protocols and efforts to address legal impediments such as licensure requirements for the movement of human resources across borders will help improve coordination by identifying gaps, identifying lessons learned, and hastening the flow of medical professionals during an emergency.</p> <p>The completion of these initiatives will result in the smoother, more efficient and more rapid flow of critical information during an emergency.</p>	<p>Establish a working group to identify liability and legal issues regarding reciprocity that need to be worked out prior to the exchange of medical supplies and personnel during an emergency by March 2006.</p> <p>Canada and the U.S. will exchange full-time liaison officers between national public health agencies and share emergency contact lists by March 2006. Mexico will establish mechanisms for the exchange of liaison officers with both Canada and the U.S.</p> <p>Conduct quarterly drills to test 24/7/365 emergency communications protocols by March 2006.</p> <p>Assess and implement plans for cross-border mass casualty care, and create a portal for reciprocity of medical licensure by June 2006.</p> <p>Develop and sign bilateral information-sharing agreement on enforcement activities and emergencies by June 2006.</p>



## Health: A Healthier North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Develop a North American plan for pandemic influenza.*</p>	<p>The threat of an influenza pandemic requires planning and preparation by all three governments working together. Reaction and response to a pandemic requires cooperation and coordination at both a national and an international level to help minimize the health impact and the potential health effects on society, the economy and the health care system within an affected country.</p>	<p>Draft and complete a North American influenza plan by 2006.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of establishing a coordinated influenza research agenda, including evaluating influenza immunization programs and tracking and updating the global inventory of pandemic influenza vaccine clinical research projects over the next 12 months.</p>

## Health: A Healthier North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Strengthen the Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI).*	<p>Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, by working together and through fora like the GHSI, our countries can help better prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. Through the use of existing multilateral forums on health security issues, we will achieve greater interoperability and harmony in our preparedness for acts of bioterrorism and public health emergencies.</p> <p>Developing and assessing strategic approaches to using vaccines and antiviral drugs will help control and/or slow down evolving outbreaks of avian influenza in humans. The harmonization of quarantine and travel medicine approaches will reduce discrepancies between national responses and facilitate both disease control and public communications. The harmonization of policies on bioterrorism preparedness will minimize any discrepancies in national approaches and ensure common standards across North America.</p> <p>By being able to react to a smallpox outbreak anywhere in North America, citizens will be protected as part of a global community.</p>	<p>Over the next 9 months, use and build upon discussions in other forums (e.g. GHSI, World Health Organization) to improve Canada-U.S. pandemic preparedness (e.g. develop and assess strategic approaches to using vaccines and antiviral drugs).</p> <p>Continue to conduct pandemic flu tabletop exercises.</p> <p>Share information and develop common plans for quarantine, travel and isolation during a transborder infectious disease outbreak by March 2006.</p> <p>Plan and test 24/7/365 early warning case reporting infrastructure and implement plans for infectious disease control and containment by June 2006.</p> <p>Hold key workshops by June 2007 on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plague and Tularemia</li> <li>- Detection of Bioterrorism Agents in the Environment</li> <li>- Phase II Smallpox</li> <li>- Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance.</li> </ul> <p>Adopt common positions on guidance with regard to the international transport of diagnostic materials and samples by March 2006.</p> <p>Finalize an operational framework for the management and implementation of a global smallpox vaccine reserve (via World Health Organization ad hoc Orthopox Experts Committee) by June 2006.</p>

## Health: A Healthier North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Share information and lessons learned in stockpile activities.*	By assisting Mexico in developing low-cost stockpiles to meet specific national needs, overall North American emergency preparedness will be improved.	<p>Provide technical assistance to Mexico as it builds its reserves by March 2006.</p> <p>Complete Canada-U.S. and Mexico-U.S. joint assessments of the stockpiling of vaccines and antidotes within 9 months and on an ongoing basis.</p>

## Health: A Healthier North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Coordinate surveillance and laboratory activities.*</p>	<p>Our efforts to coordinate surveillance and laboratory activities will help ensure that information and data are shared efficiently and quickly at relatively low costs. This will carry an immense benefit to science and decision-making in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Greater information will help to accelerate scientific advances, ultimately leading to improved policies, programs and responses to infectious disease events and occurrences. Rather than reacting to adverse events, these initiatives proactively address challenges regarding technology and its applications.</p> <p>Our efforts to improve Web-based training programs in lab biosafety and biosecurity in Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) will permit skills development in a larger number of people in a shorter period of time.</p> <p>The increased control of dangerous pathogens will reduce the risk of intentional acquisition and use of such pathogens.</p>	<p>Finalize U.S.-Canada Memorandum of Understanding related to sharing data for laboratory-based surveillance of infectious diseases and pathogens (PulseNet – a laboratory based surveillance system for infectious diseases) by March 2006.</p> <p>Within the next 9-24 months, improve Canada-U.S.-Mexico infectious diseases surveillance systems, training and response systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develop, evaluate and refine a Web-based chemical, biological and radiological nuclear training platform and system;</li> <li>- examine the feasibility of a dangerous human pathogens tracking and control system for monitoring the movement of these agents within North America;</li> <li>- explore mechanisms and protocols with a view to creating an interoperable cross-border early warning infectious diseases surveillance system;</li> <li>- collaborate and develop protocols and procedures with existing Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories.</li> </ul> <p>Provide ongoing support to Mexico over the next 36 months to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- become a full member of the LRN;</li> <li>- provide biosafety and laboratory training for infectious diseases personnel;</li> <li>- build laboratory network capacity.</li> </ul>

## Health: A Healthier North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Develop Web-based mapping of West Nile virus activity in Canada and the U.S.*</p>	<p>Locating, monitoring and learning more about West Nile virus will help Canada and the United States better protect the health and safety of their people through improved policies and programs that protect residents and visitors in both countries. Benefits and lessons from this valuable binational endeavour will be transferred to other projects that will contribute to the long-term quality of life, prosperity and security of North America.</p>	<p>Develop and complete a Canada-U.S. mapping system by June 2007.</p>

## Health: A Healthier North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
<p>Extend efforts to prevent alcohol abuse and suicide among indigenous people and increase research and sharing of knowledge about indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>The incidence of alcohol abuse and suicide among indigenous peoples in North America is significantly higher than in the non-indigenous population. Our increased efforts aimed at preventing these health problems will help improve the quality of life of indigenous peoples and communities.</p> <p>The health status of indigenous peoples in North America lags behind that of the non-indigenous population. Sharing knowledge and experiences between North American partners on indigenous health issues and interventions will help address key topics of concern and work toward improving the quality of life of indigenous peoples across the region. In the long run, healthier indigenous peoples and communities will be able to more fully participate in the social, economic and cultural life of North America.</p>	<p>Develop and launch a Canada-U.S. Web site on Suicide Prevention and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) by June 2006.</p> <p>Over the next 36 months, Canada and the United States will: collaborate on a workshop on substance abuse, convene an international panel discussion on suicide prevention, and present key findings and results.</p> <p>By June 2007, Canada and the United States will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- complete a study tour on indigenous health systems;</li> <li>- exchange information on approaches to health care delivery;</li> <li>- identify joint research projects and initiate a call for proposals.</li> </ul> <p>Within the framework of their 2004 Letter of Intent, Canada and Mexico will, within 24 months, identify joint priorities, organize workshops/seminars, and sign a plan of action to build greater cooperation on indigenous health issues.</p> <p>The United States and Mexico will collaborate over the next 36 months to develop workshops, information sharing and research projects related to Type 2 diabetes and indigenous peoples.</p>

## Health: A Healthier North America

INITIATIVE	HOW IT BENEFITS NORTH AMERICA	KEY MILESTONES
Identification and appropriate adoption of best practices in maintaining the safety, efficacy and quality of pharmaceutical products.	The implementation of best practices and the harmonization of technical standards for the registration of pharmaceuticals promote regulatory efficiencies and predictability. These activities also provide for a more economical use of product development resources and the elimination of unnecessary delays in the development and availability of new medicines, while maintaining or improving high standards for pharmaceuticals.	Evaluate best practices related to pharmaceutical review processes.  Examine the use of International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) guidelines and adopt best practices in maintaining the safety, efficacy and quality of medicines within the next 36 months.
Establish a North American mechanism to facilitate information sharing on the safety of pharmaceutical products to protect and advance public health in North America.	This mechanism will facilitate the rapid sharing of information between regulatory authorities on pharmaceutical products that may pose a risk to human health and will enhance our ability to take coordinated actions to safeguard the public health in North America.	Information sharing procedures will be in place in 24 months.

\* This is also part of the Security Agenda and Action Plan (under Bioprotection).

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